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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An edible toy for an animal, comprising:
a shell for oral interaction with the animal; and
an edible material physically differentiated from and surrounded by the shell
that is accessible by the animal over an extended period of time, the toy is consumable in its entirety;

wherein ~~at least one of~~ a shape of the shell facilitates stimulation of a cat to interact therewith by prolonged motion of the toy when the toy is set in motion and ~~[[or]]~~ the edible material facilitates stimulation of a cat to interact therewith, the edible material including includes catnip, ~~and the shape facilitates prolonged motion of the toy when the toy is set in motion.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the edible material comprises at least one of an inducement, a nutrient, or a treatment.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the edible material is accessed by at least one of the cat biting the shell or clawing the shell.
6. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the shell surrounds multiple layers of a plurality of different edible materials.
7. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 6, wherein the multiple layers are formed concentrically about a core material.

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8. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the shell includes at least one of an edible nodule or a string affixed thereto.

9. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the shell is compressed to a compression parameter for a particular animal such that a lower compression parameter facilitates easier access to the edible material and a higher compression parameter facilitates more difficult access to the edible material.

10. (Currently Amended) An edible toy for a cat, comprising:
an outside [[a]] shell for oral interaction with the cat, the shell made of an outer edible material and catnip for stimulation of the cat to interact therewith; and
an inner edible material surrounded by the shell, the inner edible material that is accessible by the cat based on wear of the shell by the cat over an extended period of time, the inner edible material made of ~~comprises a combination of~~ different edible components and catnip, wherein the entire toy is of edible material and thereby consumable in its entirety.

11. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 10, wherein the shell is formed of two mating pieces that are permanently bonded together to enclose the inner edible material.

12. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 10, wherein the inner edible material moves freely within the shell.

13. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 12, wherein the inner edible material is in the form of ~~comprises~~ at least one of a liquid, a gel, a paste, or one or more edible objects that move freely within the shell.

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 10, wherein the shell includes one or more holes for releasing the inner edible material therethrough to the cat ~~from within the shell~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 10, wherein the shell is flexible such that distortion thereof by the cat causes the inner edible material to be released to the cat.

17. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 10, wherein the shell is refillable with the inner edible material.

18. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 10 comprises the outer shell of outer edible material and the inner edible material that together form a single contiguous composition of the inner and outer ~~a single~~ edible material.

19. (Currently Amended) An edible toy for a cat, comprising:
a shell for oral interaction by ~~with~~ the cat, the shell made is comprised of an ~~edible~~ [[a]] material that includes catnip, maintains freshness of underlying material and that gradually wears away as the cat interacts ~~orally~~ therewith; and
an inner edible material that is the underlying material and which is enclosed ~~by within~~ the shell and accessible by the cat over an extended period of time, wherein the shell and inner edible material include an edible binding material such that the toy is composed of edible material consumable in its entirety.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an edible toy for an animal, comprising:

providing an edible material;
mixing the edible material into a ~~substantially~~ homogeneous mixture of an ~~inducement and~~ at least one of ~~an inducement,~~ a nutrient ~~nutriment,~~ or a treatment;
forming [[a]] an outer shell for housing the edible material; and

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~~enclosing inserting~~ the edible material within the outer shell ~~therein~~.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the edible material includes an inducement that stimulates the animal, which is a cat, to interact therewith.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising compressing ~~at least one of the shell~~ [[or]] and the edible material to a compression parameter that allows the cat to access the edible material ~~thereof~~ via at least one of licking, biting, or clawing.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising mixing the edible material such that a mixture of edible components thereof exhibit a marbling effect.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising forming a hole in the shell such that the edible material can be replaced therethrough.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the shell is made entirely of ~~comprises~~ the edible material.